



6
OF 6

DYNAMITE

BATMAN™ *THE Shadow*®



SNYDER
ORLANDO
ROSSMO
PLASCENCIA

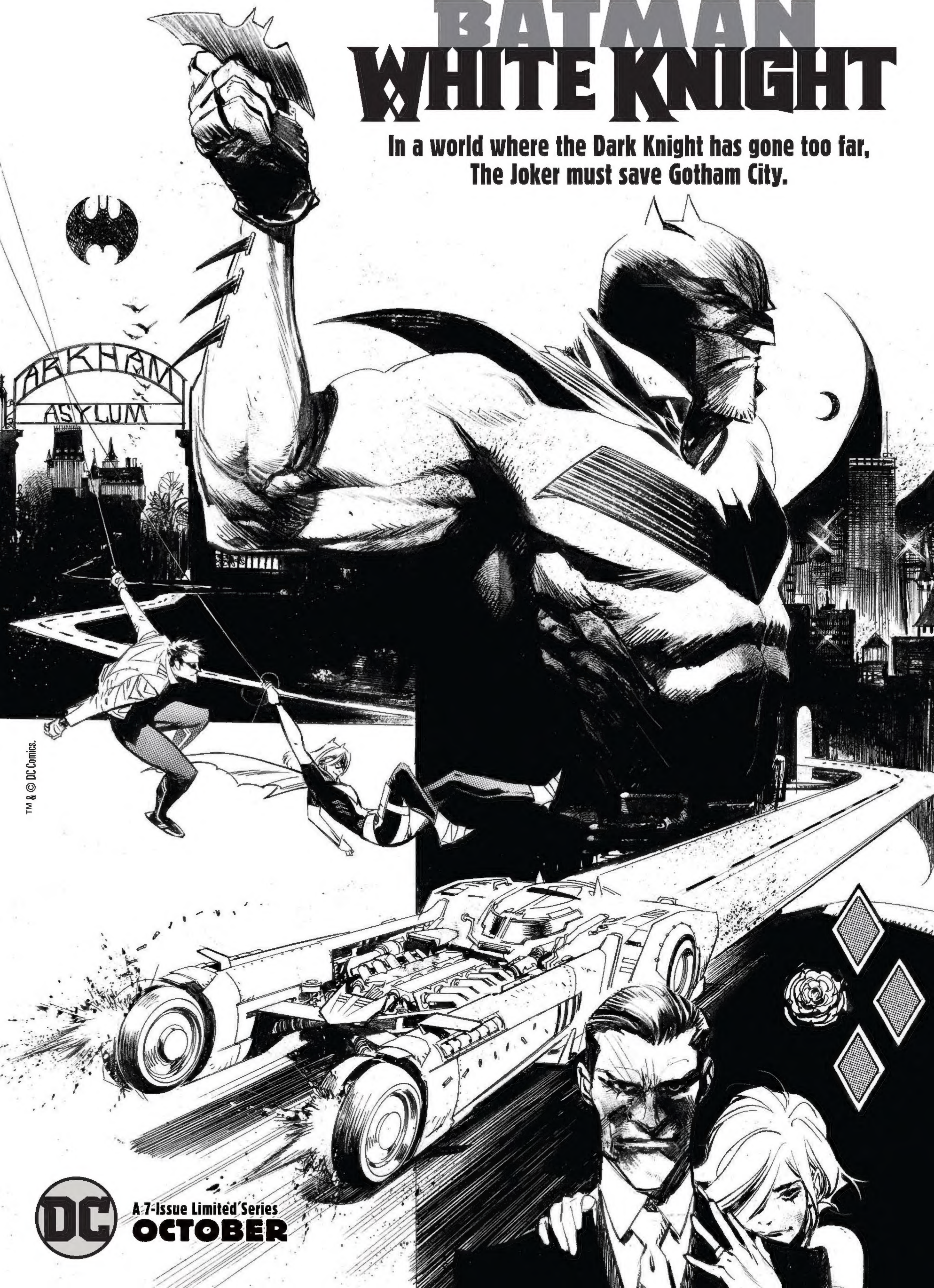
RATED T+ TEEN PLUS DCCOMICS.COM NOV 2017

FROM VISIONARY WRITER/ARTIST

SEAN MURPHY

BATMAN WHITE KNIGHT

In a world where the Dark Knight has gone too far,
The Joker must save Gotham City.



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A 7-Issue Limited Series
OCTOBER



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BRUCE
WAYNE.

YOU ARE
DEAD.

SHALL
WE DECIDE
WHAT COMES
NEXT?



WHO...

...WHERE
AM I?



"THIS, BRUCE?"

"THIS IS SHAMBA-LA."

"WE LIVE HERE, ON A HIGHER THAUMIC FREQUENCY."

"THIS CITY YOU SAW? OUR FOOTHOLD ON YOUR PLANE OF EXISTENCE. ANCHORED BY HEAVY DIMENSIONAL BALLAST."

"THERE WE MAKE PURCHASE. TO TEACH."

"SHAMBA-LA IS NOT A PROMISED LAND. IT IS A TRAP."

"WE LURE YOUR WORLD'S WORST WITH PROMISES OF POWER."

"INSTEAD, WE OFFER TWO PATHS: REDEMPTION OR DEATH."

"ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, NO EVIL MEN LEAVE SHAMBA-LA."

"IT HAS BEEN THAT WAY FOR MILLENNIA."

"LONG BEFORE THE MAN YOU KNOW AS THE SHADOW, TWO BROTHERS SOUGHT US OUT."

"THEY TOOK THE BAIT, TWO OF THE WORLD'S WORST, SEEKING THE POWER TO DO WORSE."

"ONE ENTERED. PRESENTED WITH THE SAME CHOICE WE GIVE ALL EVIL MEN, HE CHOSE DEATH."

"WE CAST HIS CARCASS INTO HIS BROTHER'S ARMS."

"IN THAT MOMENT, THE BROTHER SWORE REVENGE. A LEGACY PASSED TO HIS HEIRS."

"THAT IS THE STAG."

"A LINEAGE OF EVIL, WORKING TO ONCE AGAIN SULLY THEIR HEARTS ENOUGH TO OPEN OUR DOOR."

"THOUGH OUR POWER OVER EARTHLY MATTER IS VAST, WE CANNOT RESURRECT OUR OWN SOULS. DEAD ON EARTH IS DEAD FOR US."

"THEY COULD DO IT, BRUCE. THEY COULD KILL US ALL."

"UNLESS YOU STOP THEM."

THE
STAG'S ARMY IS
UNENDING!

FIGHT!
PROTECT THE
BALLAST
TORCH!

I AM AN
HONEST
SIGNAL.

THEN TELL ME! YOU SPENT
GENERATIONS OPENING THE
DOOR TO SHAMBA-LA!

THOUSANDS OF
YEARS TO REACH
THIS PLACE, ONLY TO
DESTROY IT?

WHY?

HEARD OF
REVENGE?

HNNG!



...YOU WANT ME
TO BECOME **THE**
SHADOW.

HE
TOLD
YOU.

YOUR PREDECESSOR CAME TO US
LONG AGO. A CRUEL MAN, WHO ACCEPTED
THE PATH TO **REDEMPTION**.

"WE TAUGHT HIM TO CLOUD
MEN'S MINDS. TO MOVE IN
THE WORLD AS WE DO. TO
EXPUNGE EVIL.

"THE SHADOW WAS HIS
SENTENCE, YES. AND
HIS PATH TO **REDEMPTION**.

"BUT HE IS
IMPERFECT.

"BUT YOU
IMPROVED UPON
WHAT HE TAUGHT YOU,
BRUCE. YOU COULD BE
THE **BEST** VERSION
OF HIM.

"WE CAN GIVE YOU
HIS POWER. THE
POWER TO BE **MORE**
THAN A MAN.

"YOU MUST CHOOSE:
BECOME **IMMORTAL**,
UNSHACKLED TO WAR
ETERNAL AGAINST EVIL...

"...OR RETURN TO LIFE
IN **MORTAL** FORM, TO
FIGHT AND FIGHT...AND
ONE DAY DIE."

"AS *ALL* MEN DO."

YOU.

QUIET.

BUMP

FIFTY YEARS WE'VE
FOUGHT, STAG. FIVE
THOUSAND AND
FORTY DEATHS. IT
ENDS TODAY--AS YOU
SOW EVIL...

GLUH.

--SO YOU SHALL
REAP IT!

SO,
BRUCE WAYNE...
WILL YOU ACCEPT
OUR *GIFT*?

...NO.

...BRUCE
WAYNE WILL *DIE*.
ONE DAY, HE
HAS TO.

AND
BATMAN
WILL LIVE ON,
WITH A NEW
FACE.

IT
MUST BE
BIGGER
THAN ME...
THERE'S
NO OTHER
WAY.

THERE
IS NO
BATMAN
WITHOUT
DEATH.

NOW
SEND ME
BACK...

"THE SAME WAY
I WENT OUT."





CRACK

GOOD ONE.



KI-CRACK

GNAH--
DAMN YOU!

IT WAS
QUIET IN MY HEAD. I
WAS ALL OUT OF
IDEAS...

...FOR
AT LEAST A
MINUTE
THERE.



FULL DISCLOSURE--
WHEN WE GET INTO YOUR
HEAD IT WON'T BE QUITE
AS CLEAN.

GO ON,
FOOLS.

THE
SHADOW
DOES NOT
BEG.

MAYBE
NOT.

BUT HE
COULD KEEP
HIS **HEAD**
DOWN.

FWACK



YOU
LOOK NICE AND
FRESH--

KRAK

WAYNE. I TOLD
YOU THE TEACHERS
COULD REVIVE YOU.

I WASN'T GOING TO
COME BACK. BUT I SAW HOW
YOU WERE DOING.

HOW **I'M** DOING IS IRRELEVANT.
THE **TEACHERS** ARE LOSING TO THE
STAG'S ARMY. THEY'RE **DYING**.

AND WE WILL **NEVER**
OVERCOME THEM ALL.

...MAYBE
WE DON'T
HAVE TO.

THE
BALLAST
TORCH.

THEY
SHOWED ME IT--
THE **TEACHERS**. IT
ANCHORS SHAMBA-LA
IN THIS WORLD BY
CONDENSING **HIGHER**
DIMENSIONAL
ENERGY.

YOU WERE **TRAINED**
HERE. YOU COULD **SHIELD** YOUR
MIND. BUT THE **SHOCKWAVE** FROM
ITS DESTRUCTION WOULD OVER-
COME ANYONE ELSE.



...NO.

IT'S OUR
BEST SHOT,
SHADOW.

WHAT YOU ASK, BATMAN...IF I
DESTROY THE BALLAST
TORCH, THE TEACHERS WILL BE
BANISHED FROM EARTH.



AND WITH THEM, ALL
THEIR KNOWLEDGE,
ALL THEIR POWER.

BANISHED,
YES. BUT THEY'LL
BE **ALIVE**,
SHADOW.



IF THE TEACHERS
ARE GONE...THEY
WILL NEVER BE
ABLE TO LIFT MY
SENTENCE. MY
WORK WILL NEVER
BE DONE.



MY **PUNISHMENT**
WILL NEVER END...



I WILL BE
CURSED TO WALK
AS THE SHADOW
FOREVER.



I AM NOT A GOOD MAN. I **TOLD** YOU, BRUCE. I NEVER WAS...

I CANNOT DAMN MYSELF. I **CANNOT** DO IT.



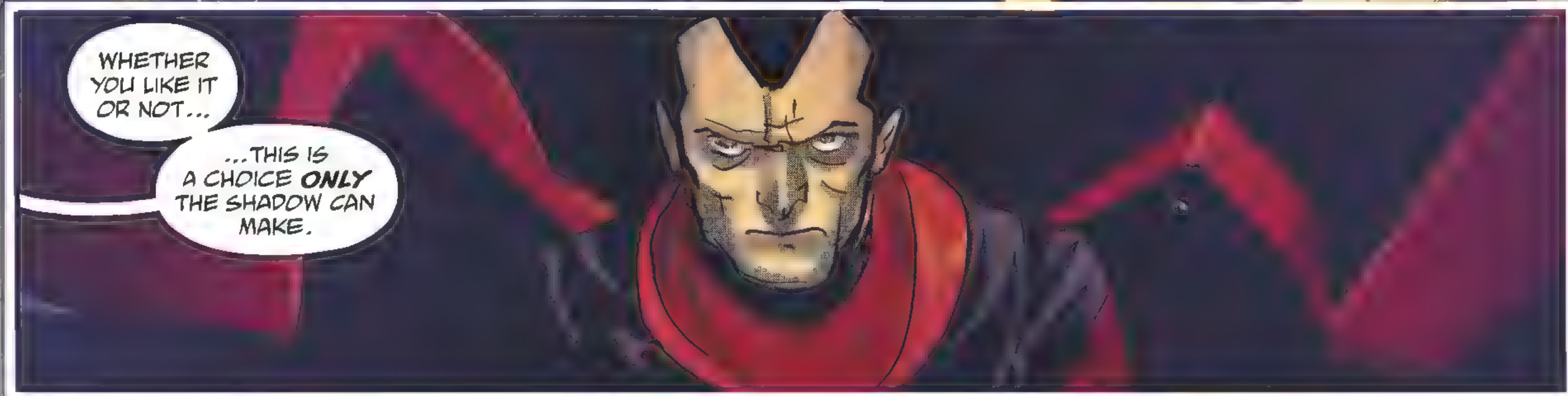
...BUT **YOU** COULD.



...NO.

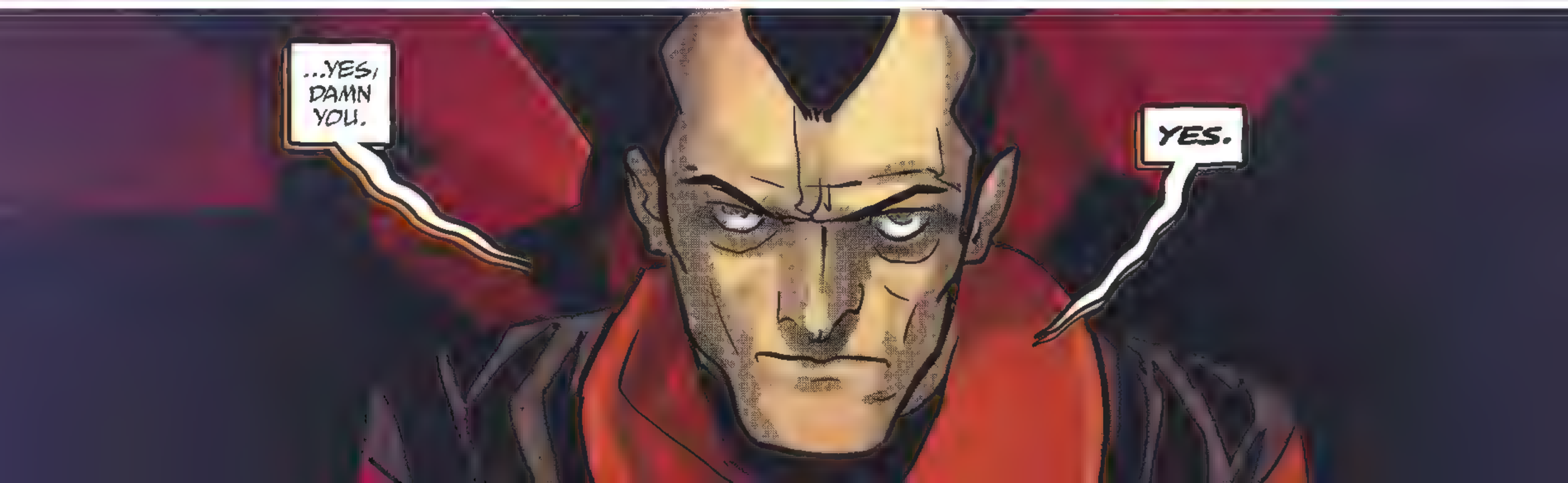
I CAN'T PULL THAT TRIGGER, CRANSTON.

THIS IS **YOU**. THIS IS **YOUR** SHOT TO TAKE, AND **YOUR** FAMILY TO SAVE.



WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT...

...THIS IS A CHOICE **ONLY** THE SHADOW CAN MAKE.



...YES! DAMN YOU.

YES.

BRAM
CHOK

...AND THE SHADOW
CHOOSES!



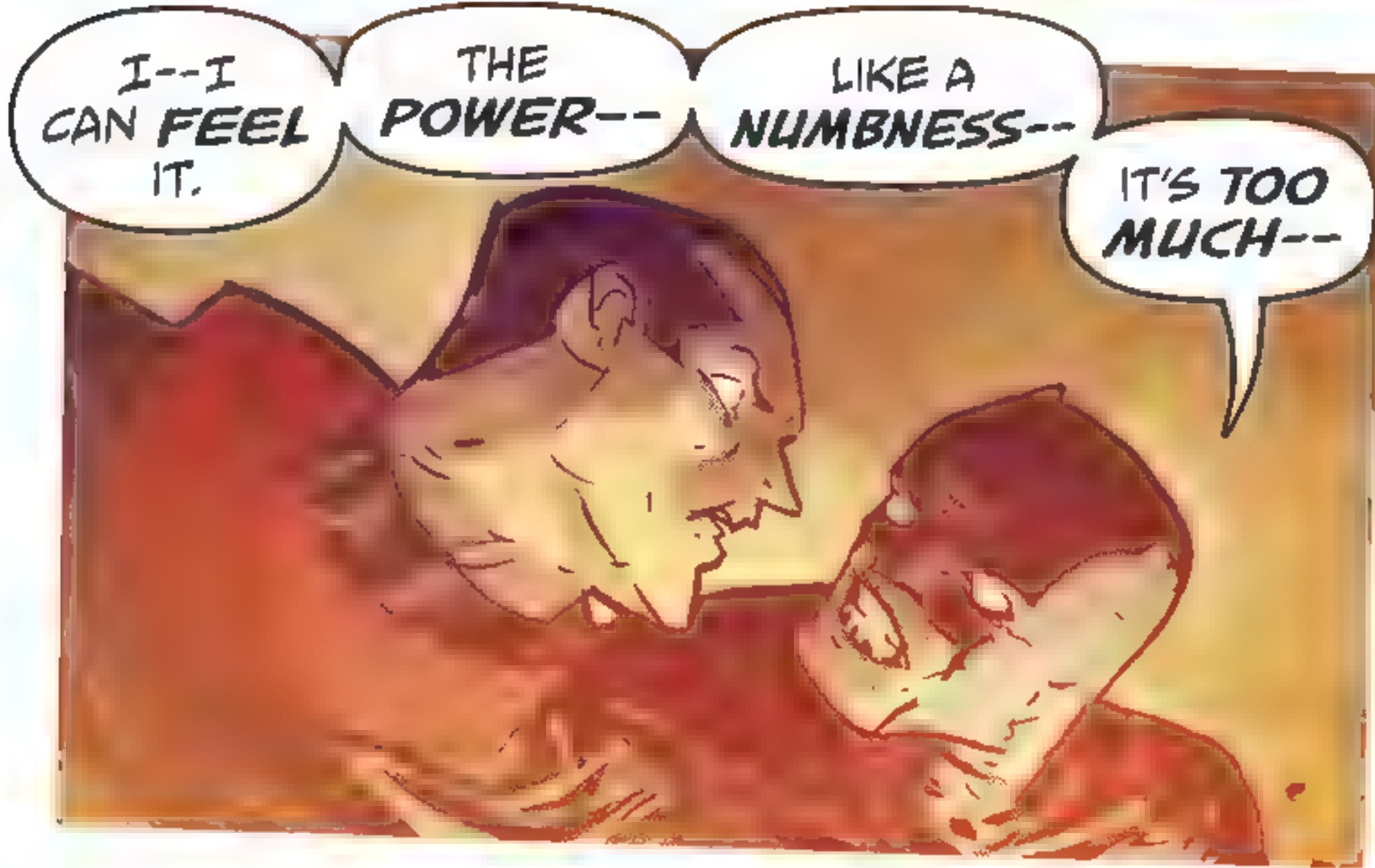
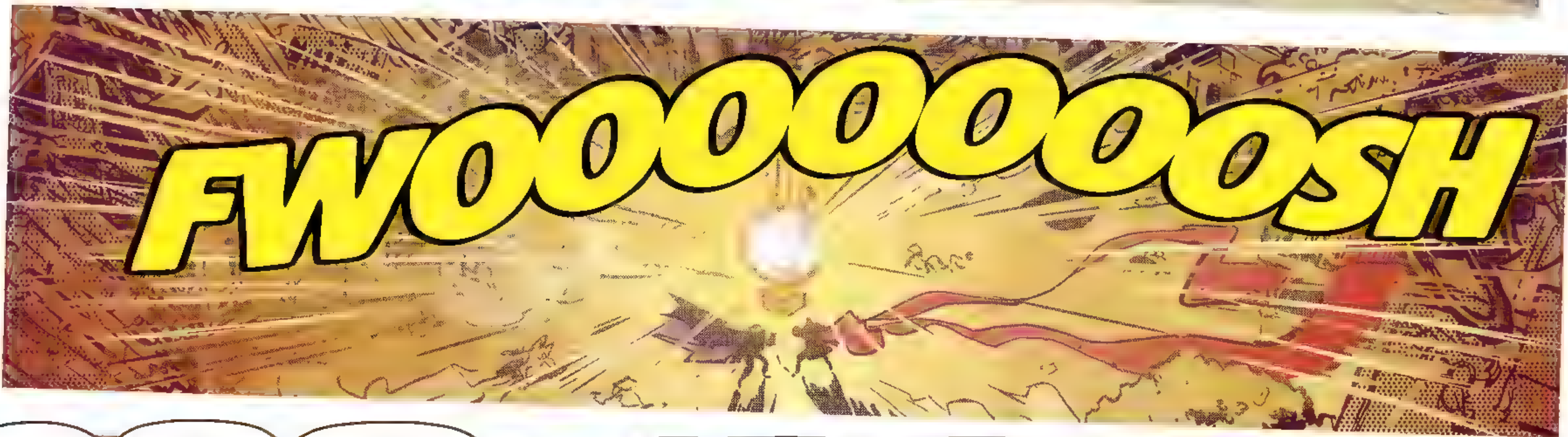
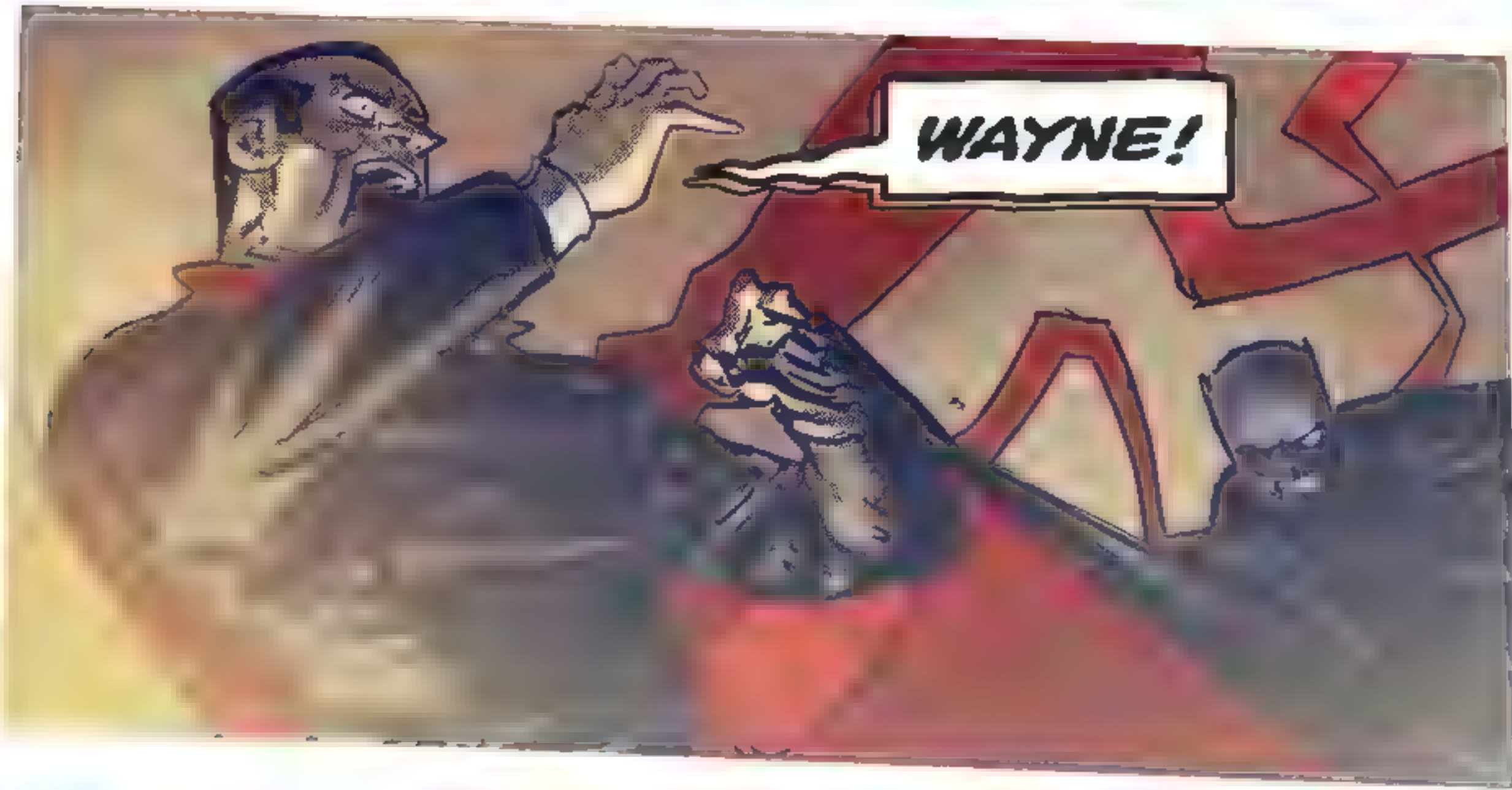
KRAKAFWOOM



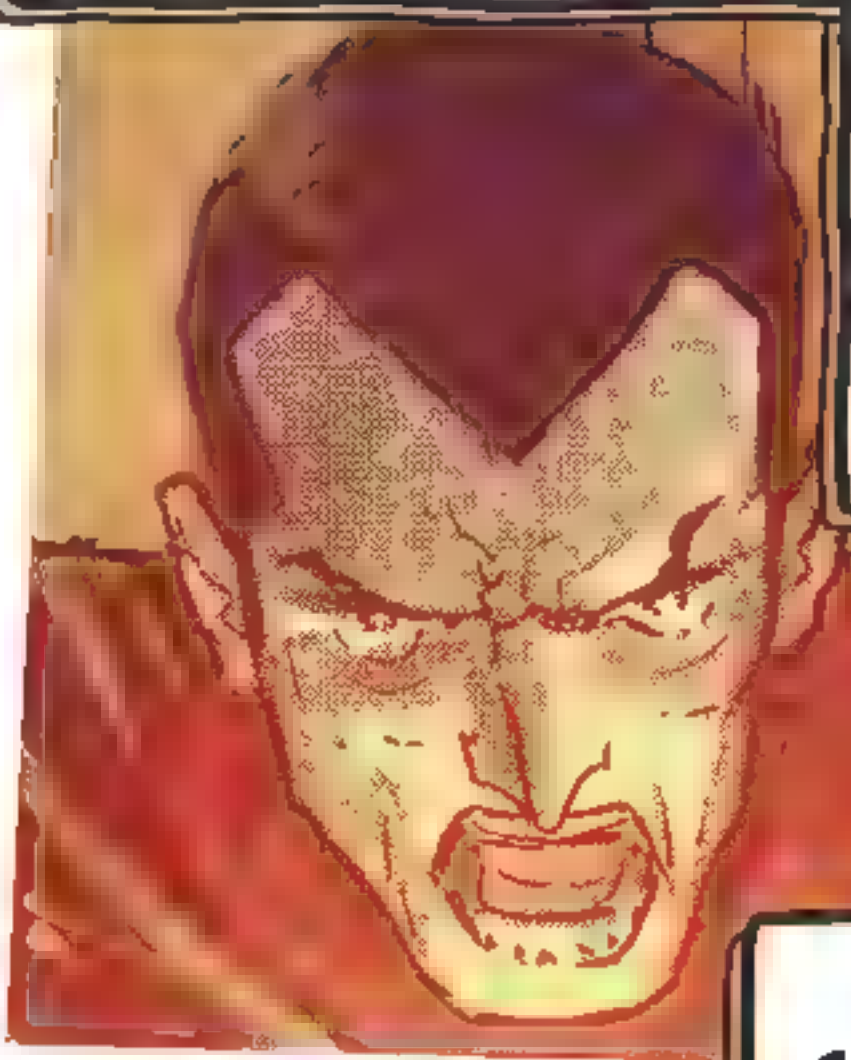
QUICK
THOUGHT--DID
WE **WANT** THAT TO
BLOW UP?



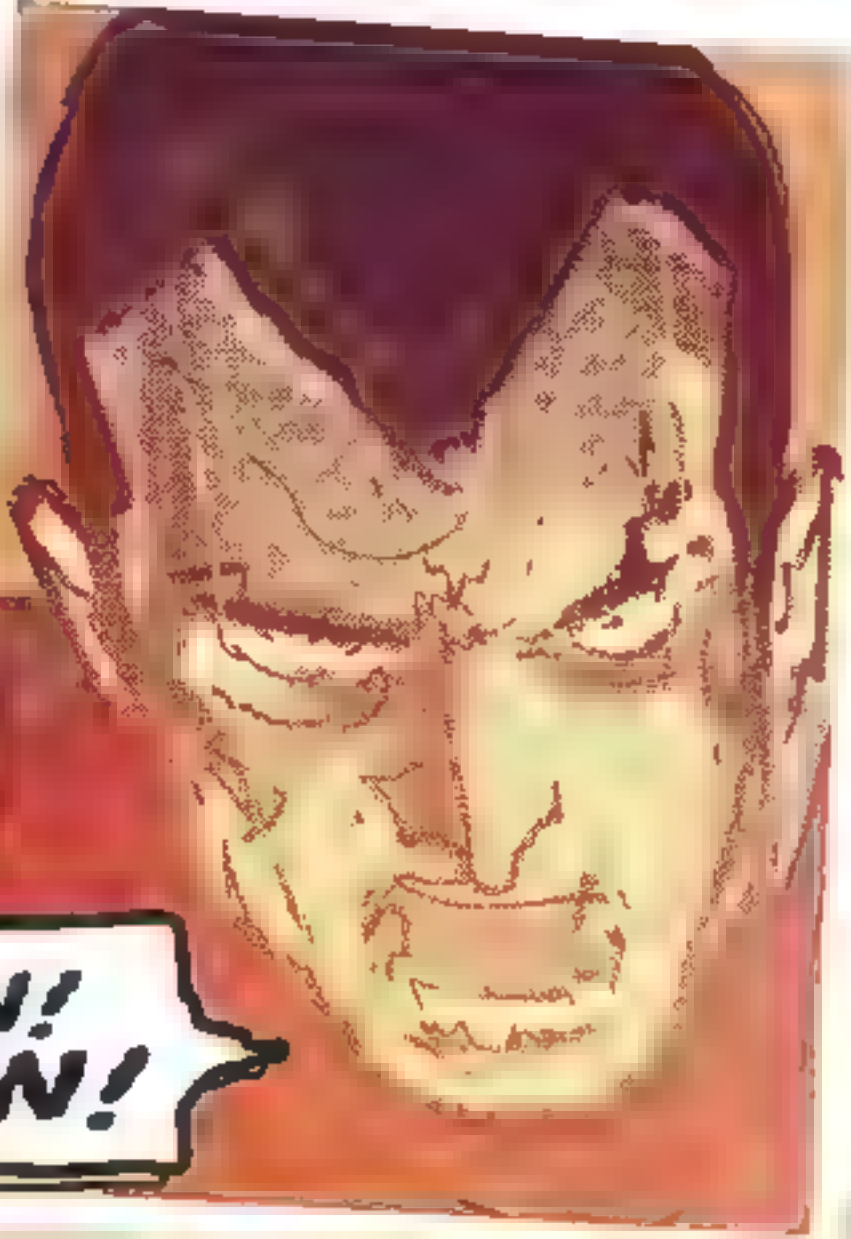
I--I...I AM
AN HONEST--



LOOK AT ME, WAYNE!
LOOK AT MY EYES!



LET
YOUR
MIND
MEET
MINE!



HOLD ON!
HOLD ON!





AWAKE,
BRUCE WAYNE...

...IT'S
OVER.

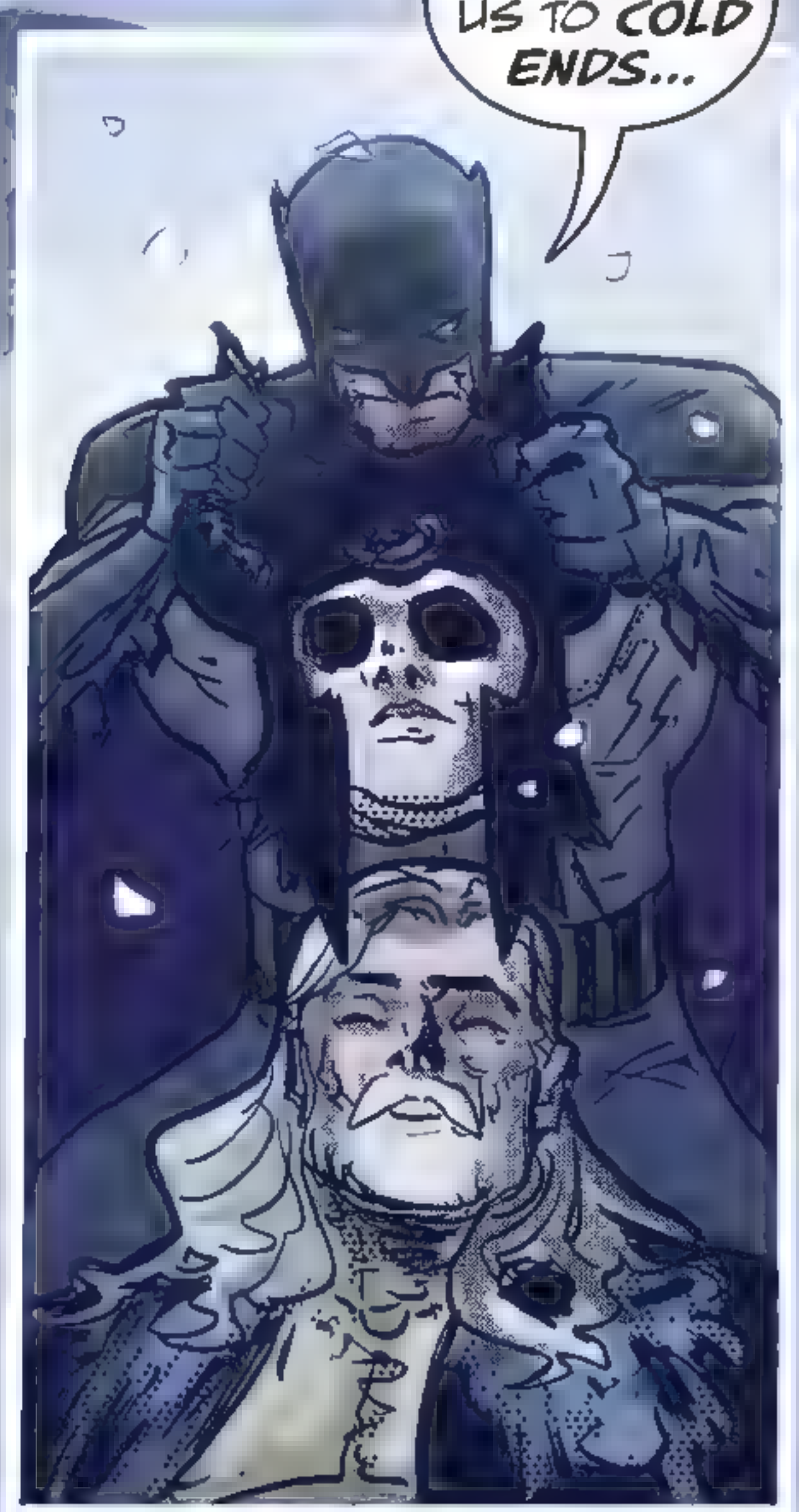


I HAVE
ENCRYPTED
CHANNELS.
ALFRED WILL
NOTIFY THE
DSS.

THEY'LL
SEE TRIAL IN
THE MATERIAL
WORLD, EVERY
ONE OF THEM.
ONCE THEY
WAKE UP...



...GENERATION AFTER
GENERATION OF MURDER.
AND LOOK--HE COULD
BE **ANYONE.**



DEATH
CAN DRIVE
US TO **COLD**
ENDS...



...WITHOUT
THE RIGHT
GUIDANCE.

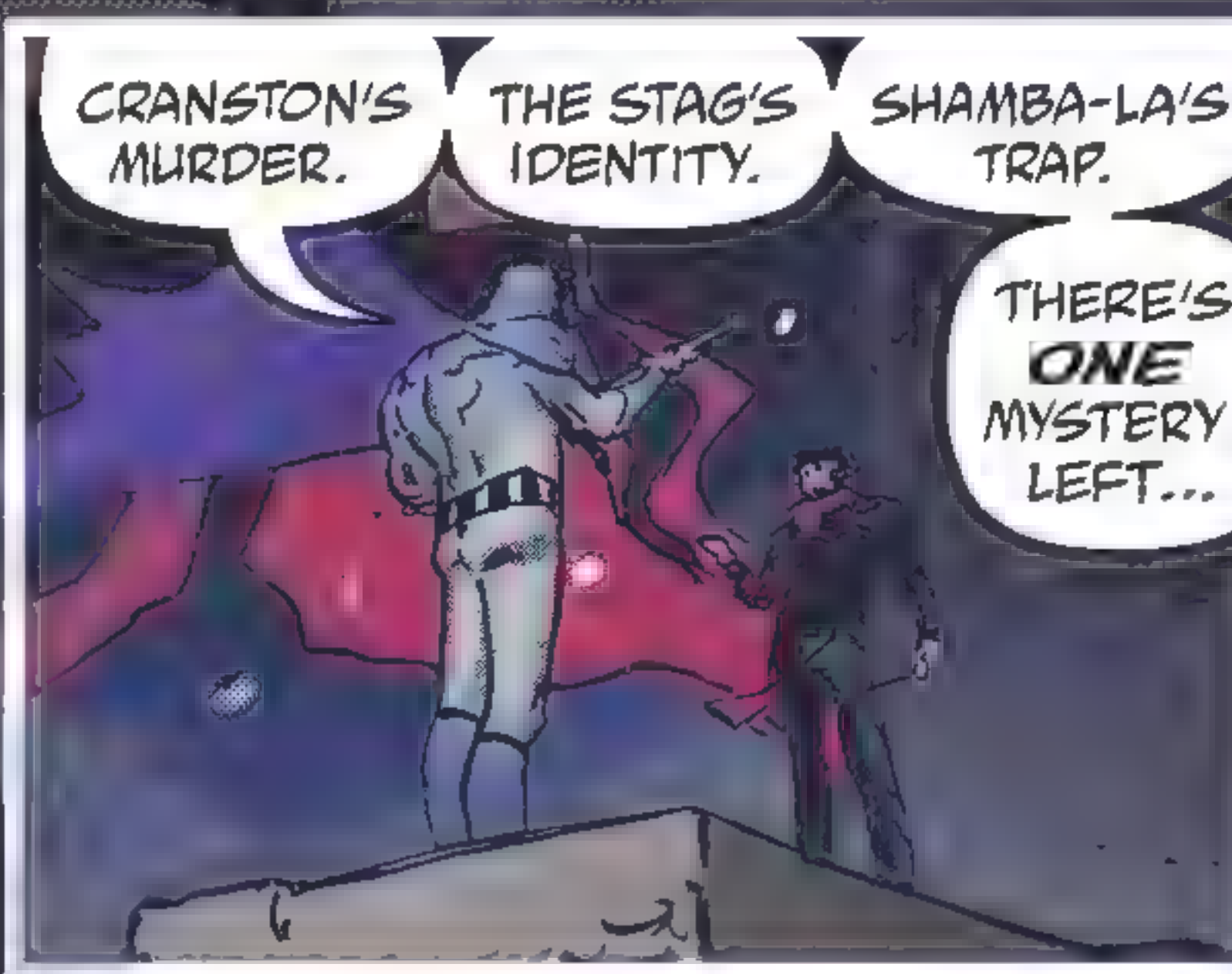
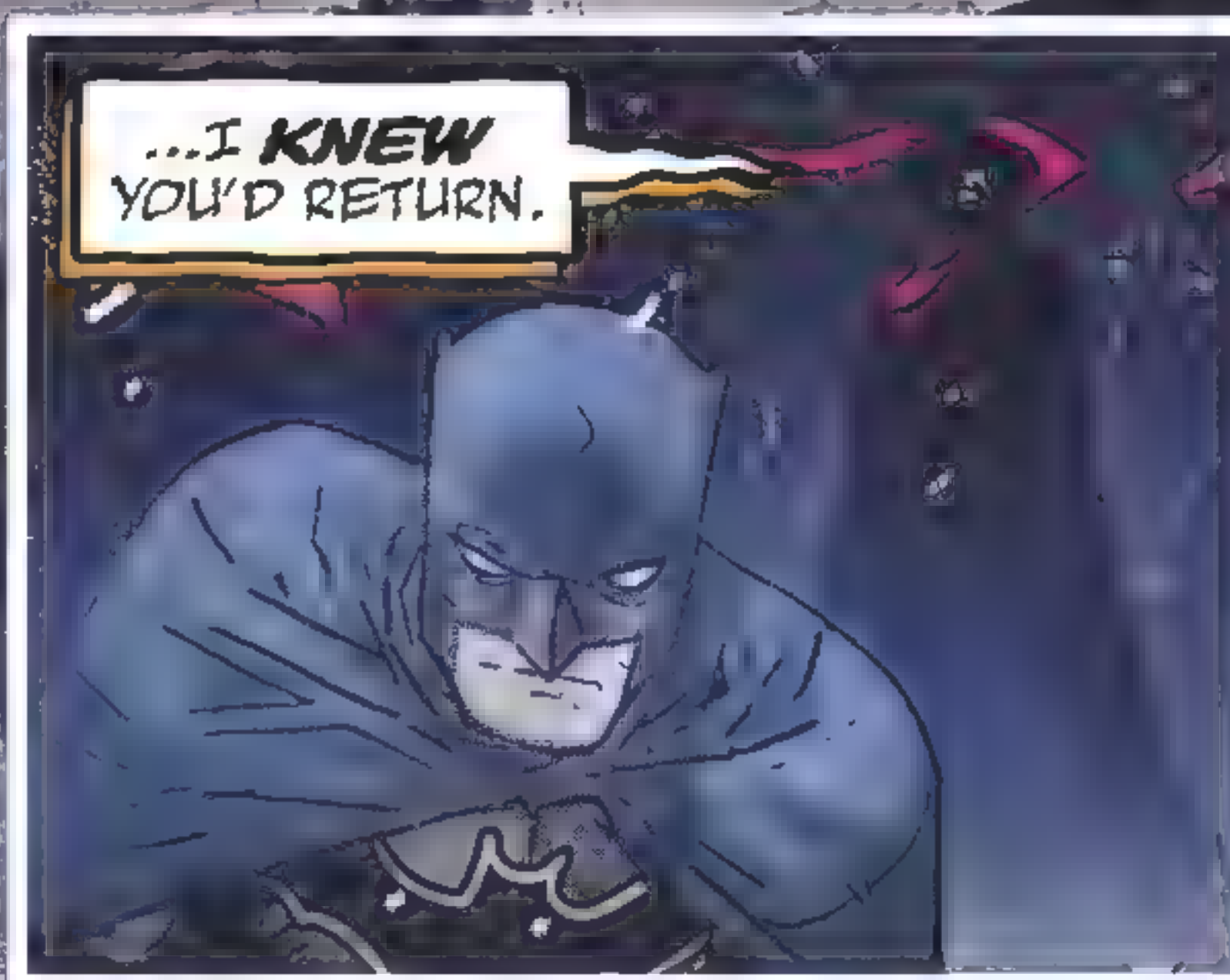
GUIDANCE.
PLEASE.
THIS IS NO
VICTORY. I'VE
FAILED.
DON'T YOU
SEE?



IT'S **GONE,**
YOU IDIOT.
...IT'S ALL
GONE...

THE FRENCH ALPS.
PROVENCE-ALPES-
CÔTE D'AZUR.

WEEKS LATER.





...YOU SAID IT
NO LONGER
MATTERED...



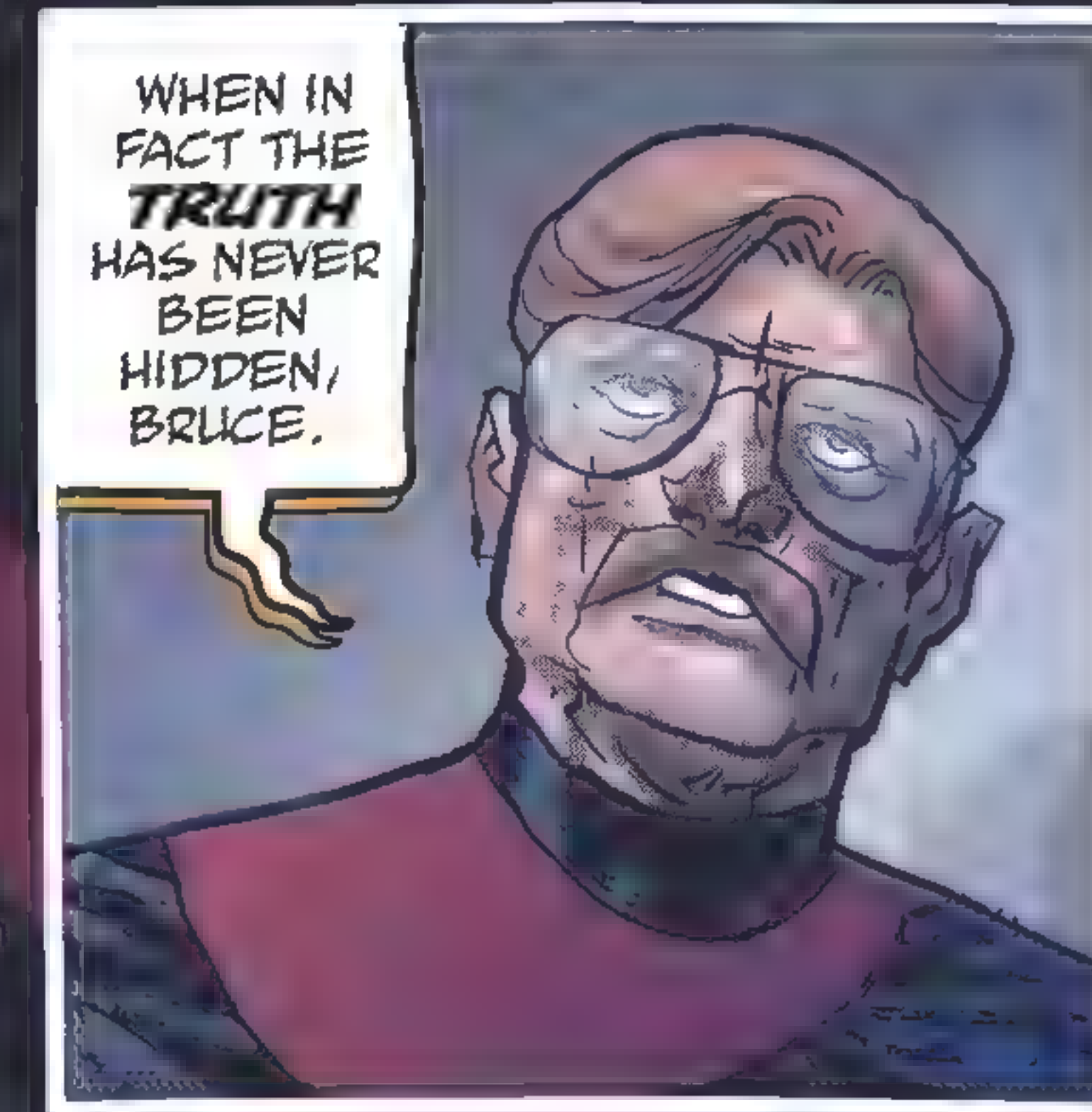
...THERE IN THE
TOMBS, AS I HELD
YOUR BEATEN...
BROKEN BODY.



BUT NOW,
REVIVED,
YOU ASK
AGAIN.



YOU
STILL
SEEK
THE
TRUTH.



WHEN IN
FACT THE
TRUTH
HAS NEVER
BEEN
HIDDEN,
BRUCE.



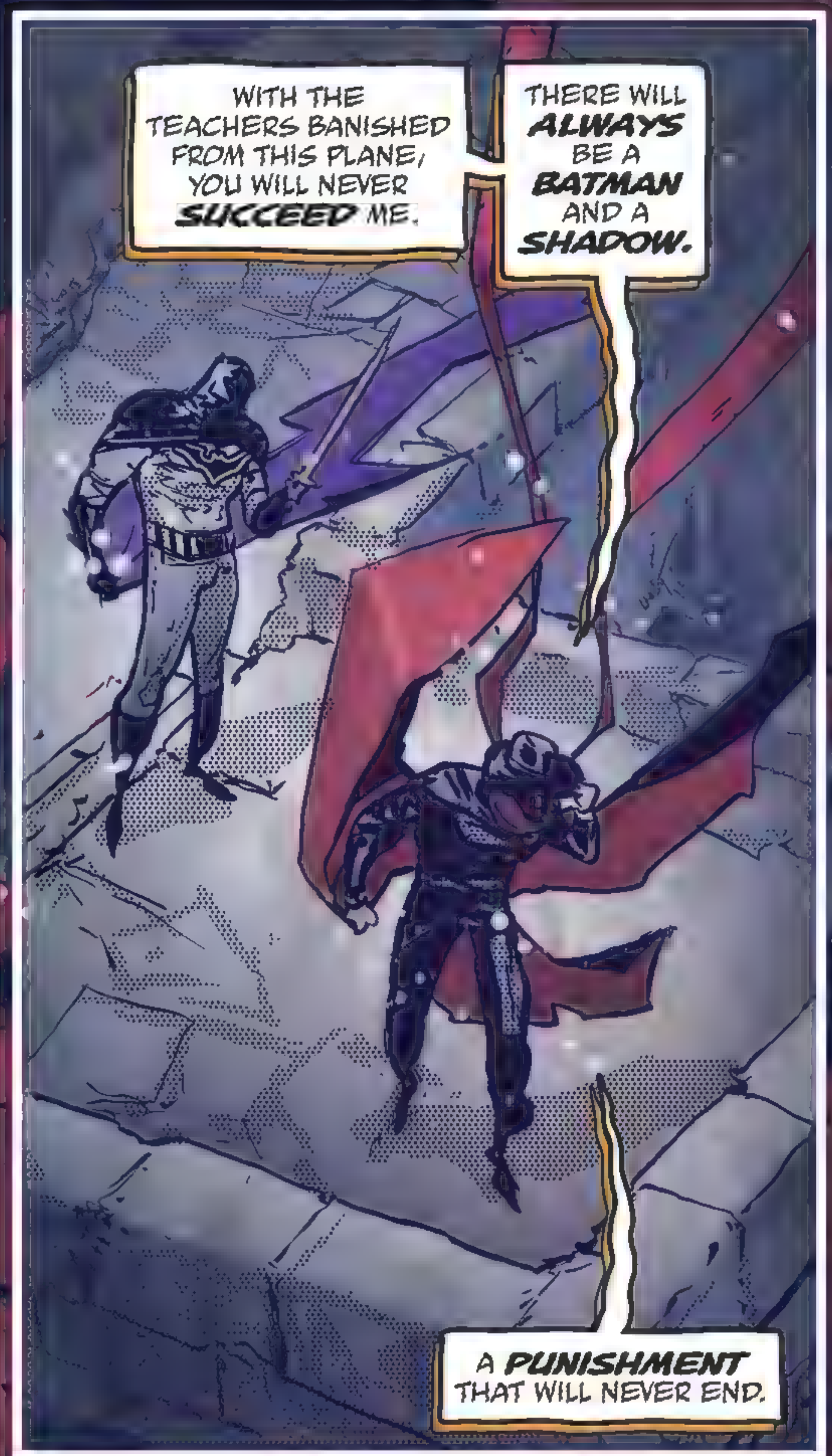
YOUR FIGHT TO
ACCEPT WHAT I
HAVE SAID FROM
THE START...



THERE ARE
THINGS IN
THIS WORLD
THAT CANNOT
BE KNOWN.



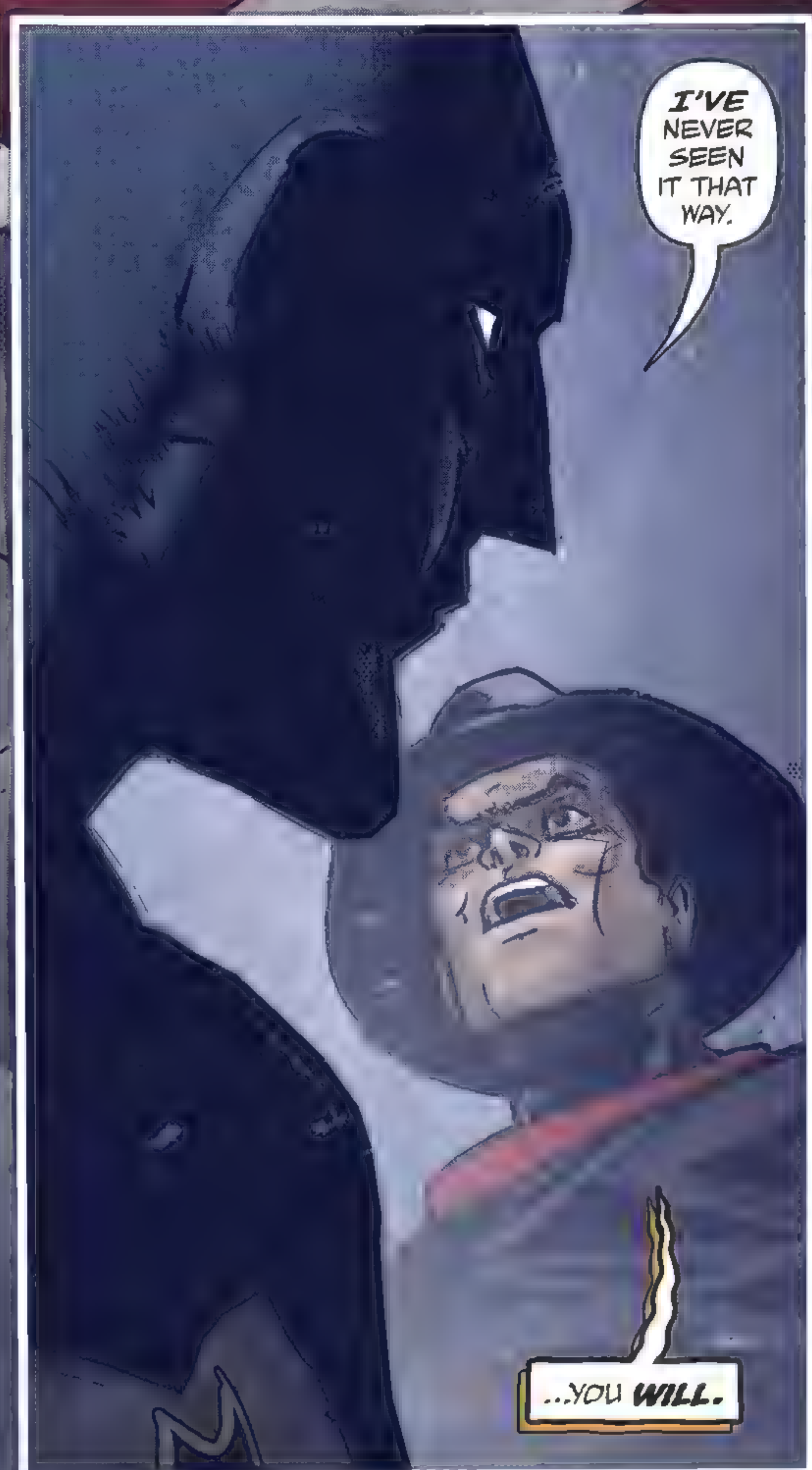
...AND THERE
ALWAYS
WILL BE.



WITH THE
TEACHERS BANISHED
FROM THIS PLANE,
YOU WILL NEVER
SUCCEED ME.


THERE WILL
ALWAYS
BE A
BATMAN
AND A
SHADOW.

A **PUNISHMENT**
THAT WILL NEVER END.



I'VE
NEVER
SEEN
IT THAT
WAY.

...YOU **WILL.**

A large comic book panel showing Batman and Shadow on a rooftop. Shadow, on the left, wears a black trench coat and hat, holding a sword. Batman, on the right, is in his iconic suit. They are surrounded by large, stylized red and purple geometric shapes against a dark, starry night sky. The rooftop is made of stone blocks.


THIS
LIFE...IT ISN'T
A **CURSE**,
SHADOW.

A close-up panel of Batman's face, looking upwards with a slight smile. He is wearing his cowl and the yellow bat emblem is visible on his chest.

IF YOU'VE
TRULY WATCHED
ME THIS LONG, ALL
THE WAY FROM CRIME
ALLEY...

A close-up panel of Shadow's face. He is wearing his black hat and has a serious expression. A sword is visible behind him.


...THEN
YOU **KNOW**
THAT.

A close-up panel of Batman's face, looking towards the left with a serious expression.


YOU'VE
LIVED A CENTURY
OF PUNISHMENT...
YOUR NEXT ONE
CAN BE ABOUT
MORE.

A close-up panel of Shadow's face, looking towards the right with a serious expression.


THERE **IS**
NOTHING
MORE.

A close-up panel of Shadow's face, looking towards the right with a serious expression.

I CAN
TEACH YOU,
I CAN **SHOW**
YOU, IF YOU'LL
LET ME...

A close-up panel of Batman's face, looking towards the left with a serious expression.

...IF YOU THINK
THAT, WAYNE,
YOU'VE LEARNED
NOTHING.

A close-up panel of Batman's face, looking towards the left with a serious expression.

I DON'T
THINK,
SHADOW...



I KNOW.

BATMAN/ SHADOW **FINALE**

SCOTT SNYDER & STEVE ORLANDO STORY

STEVE ORLANDO **RILEY ROSSMO**
SCRIPT ART

IVAN PLASCENCIA **CLEM ROBINS** **RILEY ROSSMO**
COLORS LETTERS COVER

TIM SALE & BRENNAN WAGNER **JOCK** VARIANT
COVERS

DAVE WIELGOSZ **MARK DOYLE** **BATMAN CREATED BY**
ASST. EDITOR EDITOR **BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER**

SOME
PEOPLE DESERVE
TO DIE.

MICHAEL CLAY



TM & © DC Comics.

A NEW MONTHLY SERIES FROM
THE PAGES OF THE WILD STORM

WRITTEN BY

WARREN ELLIS

ART BY

DEXTER VINES

BRYAN HILL WITH
N. STEVEN HARRIS AND

OCTOBER

COWAN / SIEMKIEWICZ



BATMAN: WHITE KNIGHT

**JOKER SETS OUT
TO BEAT BATMAN
BY BECOMING THE
WHITE KNIGHT
THAT GOTHAM
REALLY NEEDS.**

Batman has been a hero for decades, constantly saving Gotham City from mad men and murderers. But take away the cape and noble purpose and he's actually a terror—someone capable of causing as much damage as he prevents. In a new 7-issue limited alternate-reality comic series, it's the Joker—cured of his insanity—who sees that Bruce Wayne is just another part of the city's vicious cycle of crime and sets out to stop him.

Superstar writer and artist Sean Gordon Murphy (PUNK ROCK JESUS, THE WAKE) brings you his tale of a twisted Gotham with a massive cast of heroes and villains. BATMAN: WHITE KNIGHT is told on an epic scale, but at the heart of it all is the tragic story of a hero and a villain, the Batman and the Joker. The question is, which one is the hero and which one is the villain...?

The Joker's been called a maniac, a killer and the "Clown Prince of Crime," but a "white knight"? Never. Until now...

"We know Joker's a genius, we know he's relentless, and we know he can play the crowd, so why not make him a politician?" said Murphy. "Why not strip away the psychosis (the thing that's holding him back) and let him challenge Batman unimpeded? And to make it even scarier, what if he did it legally and without breaking any rules, so that Batman couldn't stop him?"

"My main goal was to undo the comic tropes while changing Gotham from a comic book city into a real city—a city dealing with everything from Black Lives Matter to the growing wage gap," Murphy says. "[But] rather than write a comic about the wage gap, I gave those ideas to the Joker, who leads a kind of media war against Gotham's elite by winning people over with his potent observations and rhetoric."



IN STORES **OCTOBER 4**



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